



36596A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Albert LEBL

Serial No.: 09/755,049

Filed: January 8, 2001

**For: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR THE
EXTRACTION AND REGENERATION
OF ACIDS FROM SPENT ACIDS**

Patent Art Unit: 1764

Examiner: A. Doroshenk

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the March 24, 2004 Notice of Allowance, the Examiner stated that the reasons for allowance are that the prior art fails to disclose an apparatus for regenerating spent acid liquor comprising a primary roasting furnace coupled to a secondary roasting furnace and also fails to disclose a rotatable cone member positioned in the discharge opening of the primary roasting furnace to reduce the size of particles produced during the roasting of spent acid. Applicants respectfully submit that these comments mischaracterize the invention as recited in the claims. Thus, Applicants disagree with these comments.

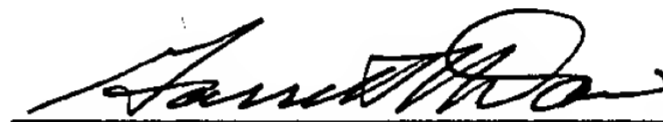
For example, the Examiner states that the prior art does not disclose an apparatus for the regeneration of spent acid liquor comprising a primary roasting furnace coupled to a secondary roasting furnace. However, independent claim 26 does not recite this feature. Therefore, this statement does not properly characterize independent claim 26 and the claims depending therefrom.

The Examiner also states that the prior art does not disclose a rotatable cone member in the discharge opening of the primary roasting furnace to reduce the size of particles.

However, independent claims 26 and 40 do not recite a rotatable cone member. Therefore, this statement does not properly characterize the invention of claims 26 and 40 and the claims depending therefrom.

In view of the above comments, Applicants respectfully disagree with the statements on the reasons for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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